

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable tissue stimulating device comprising:

an elongate carrier member having ~~a proximal end, a distal end, and~~ a plurality of electrodes mounted thereon ~~between said proximal and distal ends, the elongate carrier member having at least a first and at least one~~ lumen extending at least partially through the elongate said carrier member; and

an optic fiber stiffening element comprising one or more optic fibers configured to bias ~~the elongate said carrier member into a first~~ substantially straight configuration when disposed in said ~~at least a first lumen, and~~

wherein ~~the elongate said carrier member is configured to assume a second curved configuration when said during or after removal of the~~ optic fiber stiffening element is removed from said lumen.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~implantable tissue stimulating~~ device of claim 1, further comprising:

a cochlear implant electrode assembly comprising ~~the elongate said carrier member and the~~ and said plurality of electrodes.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~implantable tissue stimulating~~ device of ~~claim 2~~ claim 2, wherein the one or more optic fibers are configured to facilitate at least one of illumination and visualization of an area of a cochlea during or prior to surgery.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~implantable tissue stimulating~~ device of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more optic fibers ~~facilitates~~ is configured to facilitate illumination of a surgical site and at least another of the one or more optic fibers ~~facilitates a user to visualise~~ is configured to facilitate visualization of said surgical site by a surgeon when said optic fiber stiffening element is disposed in said lumen.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~implantable tissue stimulating~~ device of ~~claim 2~~ claim 2, wherein said carrier member is resiliently flexible, the first and wherein said substantially straight configuration facilitates insertion of said ~~elongate~~ carrier member into a cochlea, and ~~wherein the second~~ said curved configuration facilitates application of a ~~preselected~~ tissue stimulation to a cochlea via the electrodes said electrodes mounted on the on said carrier member, when said carrier member is disposed in the cochlea said elongate carrier member being made of a resiliently flexible first material.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~implantable tissue stimulating~~ device of ~~claim 3~~ claim 3, wherein upon removal of the one or more optic fibers, ~~the at least a first~~ said lumen is configured for drug delivery.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~implantable tissue stimulating~~ device of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the elongate~~ said carrier member has a resiliently flexible tip member extending forwardly from ~~the distal~~ a first end of ~~the elongate~~ said carrier member, said tip member being light permeable and hemispherical in form.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~implantable tissue stimulating~~ device of ~~claim 10~~ claim 10, wherein ~~the tip~~ said tip member acts as a lens and is configured to facilitate at least one of illumination and visualisation of a region at least adjacent the tip member of ~~the elongate~~ said carrier member.

12-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~implantable tissue stimulating~~ device of ~~claim 46~~, claim 1, wherein ~~the second~~ said curved configuration is a spiral configuration.

48. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the optic fiber stiffening element is stiffer than said carrier member.

49. (New) An implantable tissue stimulating device comprising:

an elongate carrier member having a plurality of electrodes mounted thereon and at least one lumen extending at least partially through said carrier member; and

an optic fiber stiffening element comprising one or more optic fibers configured to bias said carrier member into a substantially straight configuration when disposed in said lumen,

wherein said carrier member is configured to assume a curved configuration, in which said carrier member is curved to match the curvature of a surface of a cochlea, when said optic fiber stiffening element is removed from said lumen.

50. (New) The device of claim 49, further comprising:

a cochlear implant electrode assembly comprising said carrier member and said plurality of electrodes.

51. (New) The device of claim 50, wherein the one or more optic fibers are configured to facilitate at least one of illumination and visualization of an area of a cochlea during or prior to surgery.

52. (New) The device of claim 51, wherein said lumen is configured for drug delivery when said optic fiber stiffening element is not disposed in said lumen.

53. (New) The device of claim 50, wherein said carrier member is resiliently flexible, said substantially straight configuration facilitates insertion of said carrier member into a cochlea, and said curved configuration facilitates application of tissue stimulation to a cochlea via said electrodes mounted on said carrier member, when said carrier member is disposed in the cochlea.

54. (New) The device of claim 53, wherein said substantially straight configuration is a straight configuration.

55. (New) The device of claim 54, wherein said curved configuration is a spiral configuration.

56. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein at least one of the one or more optic fibers is configured to facilitate illumination of a surgical site and at least another of the one or more optic fibers is configured to facilitate visualization of said surgical site by a surgeon when said optic fiber stiffening element is disposed in said lumen.

57. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein the surface of the cochlea is the modiolus of the cochlea.

58. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein the optic fiber stiffening element is stiffer than said carrier member.

59. (New) The device of claim 49, wherein said carrier member has a resiliently flexible tip member extending forwardly from a first end of said carrier member, said tip member being light permeable and hemispherical in form.

60. (New) The device of claim 59, wherein said tip member acts as a lens and is configured to facilitate at least one of illumination and visualisation of a region at least adjacent the tip member of said carrier member.